

CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

Ralph S. Baric

Department of Epidemiology,
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Review

- **Coronavirus Pathogenesis**
- **Coronavirus Vaccines**
- **Lessons from the Past**
- **Recommendations**

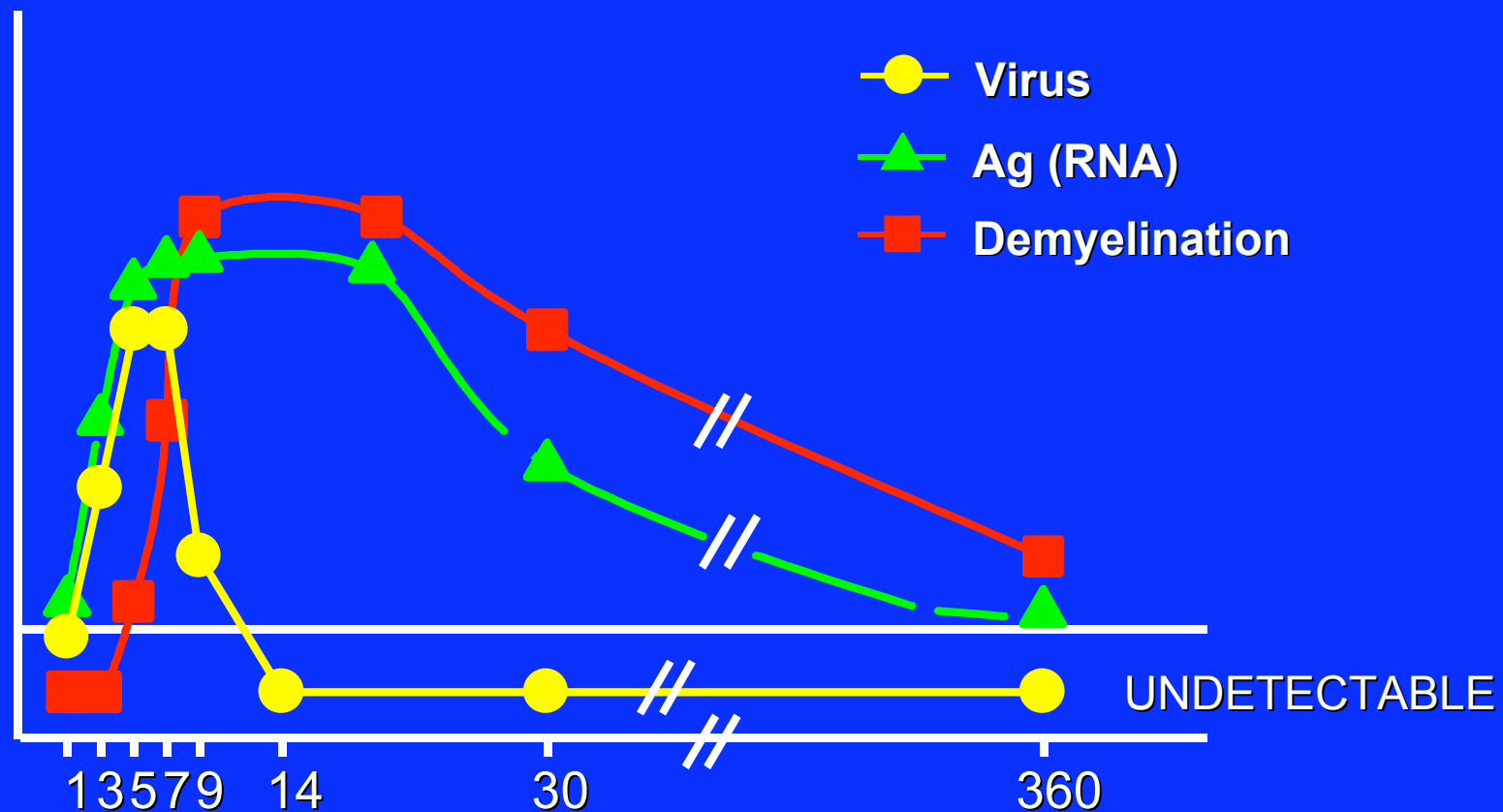
Pathogenesis-

Mechanism by which a pathogen causes a disease

Understand pathogenesis, design rational approaches for abrogating disease processes, identify components of protective immunity

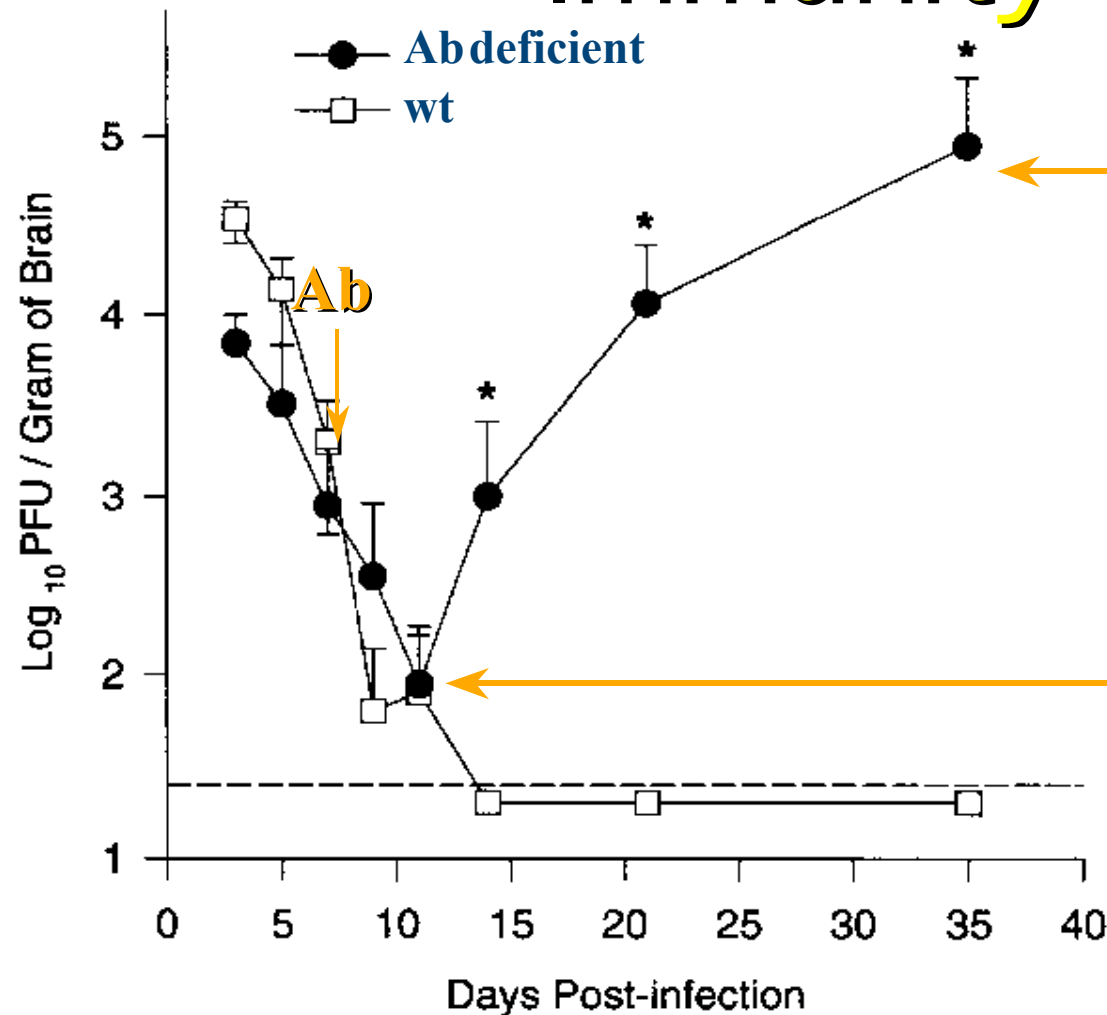
Develop effective vaccines

PATHOGENESIS OF JHM VIRUS IN MICE



*Is SARS pathogenesis virus-induced or immune mediated? How long will it persist? Where will it persist? What is responsible for virus clearance?

Components of Protective Immunity



Virus reactivation

Incomplete viral clearance

*Lin et. al., JImmunol*162:7358, 1999 *Ramakrishna et al., JImmunol*168:1204, 2002

*Both cellular and humoral immunity are required for virus clearance.

CORONAVIRUS PATHOGENESIS

Infected Tissues	Coronavirus				
	Macaque	PIGS		Cattle	
	SARS	TGEV-V	PRCV	BCoV-E	BCoV-R
Viremia	+/-	-	+	ND	ND
Upper Resp. Tract	+	+	++	+	++
Lower Resp. Tract	++	+/-	+++	+	+++
Intestine	+/-	+++	+/-	++ (colon)	++ (colon)

SARS is likely a pneumoenteric pathogen, like TGEV, PRCV, BCoV-E and BCoV-R (Mucosal Immunity is likely critical for protection).

PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY

- Balanced cellular and humoral immune responses, likely to multiple structural and nonstructural proteins
- As many coronaviruses cause pneumoenteric infections, mucosal immunity should be targeted to both compartments
 - Pneumoenteric viruses, mucosal protection in the lungs does not protect against enteric disease and shedding
- Viremia to traffic between compartments?
Macrophage Infection?
- Concern: low level immunity (BoCV-R), short-lived mucosal immunity and Antibody Dependent Enhancement (FIPV)

Vaccines

- Reinfection is common although clinical disease is usually reduced upon second exposure
- Persistence with shedding is also common

Coronavirus Vaccine Challenges

- Human coronavirus infection elicits short-lived immunity and individuals can be successfully infected ~2yrs postchallenge. Human coronavirus sequence persists in the CNS. SARS?
- Live-attenuated, inactivated and subunit based vaccines not only failed to protect, but resulted in antibody mediated immune enhancement of FIPV infection with increased disease and death
 - antibody against S glycoprotein

Coronavirus Vaccine Challenges

- Human coronavirus infection elicits short-lived immunity and individuals can be successfully infected ~2yrs postchallenge. CNS persistence is common. *SARS?*
- Live-attenuated, inactivated and subunit based vaccines not only failed to protect, but resulted in immune enhancement of FIPV infection and disease
 - neutralizing antibody against S glycoprotein
- Inactivated vaccines and recombinant proteins did not protect against TGEV, BoCV, FIPV and CCoV infection
- Live-attenuated IBV (very protective) and TGEV vaccines are somewhat efficacious. Live-attenuated BCV protects against clinical disease but not infection (IBV vaccines: little protection from heterologous strains; may be short term immunity).
- Vectored vaccines (Adenovirus/poxviruses) provided limited protection against TGEV, more efficacious against IBV

Coronavirus Vaccines

- In the case of TGEV and BCoV, goal of vaccine is to induce the passive transfer of protective lactogenic immunity to the newborn (clearly different than SARS)
- Except IBV (goal is short term immunity) and TGEV live attenuated vaccines, a coronavirus vaccine that prevents both respiratory and enteric disease has been difficult to produce.
- Immune Targets: S glycoprotein, N protein, other structural proteins, replicase?

Lessons from the Past

- What might the future hold for SARS?
- Can SARS change its transmission and clinical presentation?
- Is SARS an anomaly or a harbinger of the emerging potential of coronaviruses and other members of the Nidovirus Order?

Lessons from the Past

Nidovirus Pandemics Since 1978

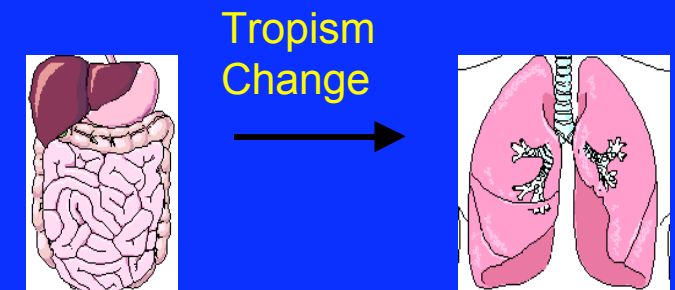
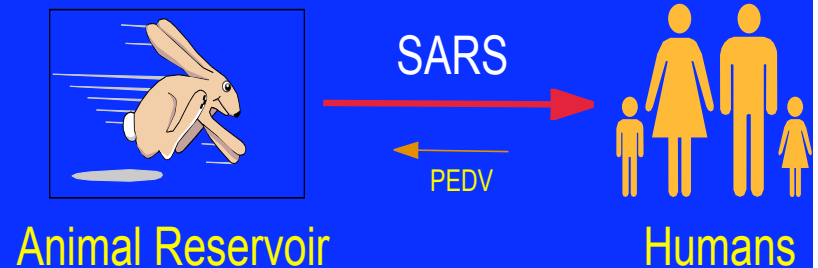
- **1978:** Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) emerged in Belgium and the UK. The most important viral infection of the swine intestinal track in Europe and Asian Nations

- I. profuse watery diarrhea with high mortality (50% in <4-5 week animals; II. All ages but less severe in adults [3%])
- Sequence more akin to HCV 229E

- **1984:** Porcine Respiratory Coronavirus (PRCoV) evolved from TGEV (enteric) pathogen.

- Single amino acid change or a deletion (in S1 regulates enteric or respiratory tropism (Also removes two antigenic sites)
- Worldwide distribution, PRCV cross protection against TGEV, TGEV prevalence is declining in Europe

Paradigm for many
New Emerging Viruses



Lessons from the Past

Nidovirus Pandemics/ Emerging Pathogens

- 1987-90: Porcine Respiratory and Respiratory Disease Syndrome (PRRSV) emerged simultaneously in the US and Europe (Origin is unknown)
 - Germany 1990-All of Europe by 1991
 - Most important swine pathogen (pneumonia and fetal loss)
- 1993: Respiratory Bovine Coronavirus-“Shipping Fever” Pneumonia
 - Changes in pol1a and S glycoprotein gene (single change) likely responsible for change in tropism/virulence from enteric (BoCV-E) to respiratory disease (BCoV-R)
- SARS Pandemic? Origin of the SARS virus is likely a zoonosis from civit cats; ~15% mortality, >50% in elderly populations
- **Common Theme:**
 - In each case, losses continue despite widespread use of modern management and vaccination programs (**Time: we need to prepare quickly; He's is a nasty guy**)

Recommendations

CORONAVIRUS PATHOGENESIS

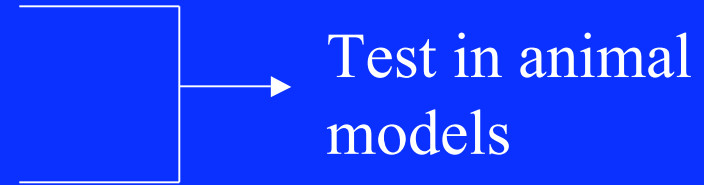
- SARS Pathogenesis in Humans
- Develop SARS Animal Models (e.g., facilities, standardized reagents, biological specimens, communication)
 - Identify Sites of Replication, Target Cell Populations, Pathogenic Mechanisms, Mechanisms of Spread and Persistence
 - Identify Components of Innate and Protective Immunity
 - Identify Virulence Determinants (e.g., S hypervariable regions, IFN antagonists, Antibody Dependent Enhancement)
 - Pathogenesis Studies and Test Candidate Vaccines

CORONAVIRUS PATHOGENESIS

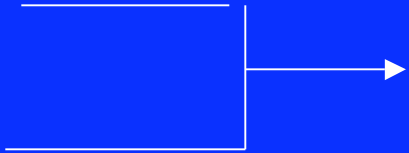
- SARS Pathogenesis in Humans
- Develop SARS Animal Models (e.g., facilities, standardized reagents, biological specimens, communication)
 - Identify Sites of Replication, Target Cell Populations, Pathogenic Mechanisms, Mechanisms of Spread and Persistence
 - Identify Components of Innate and Protective Immunity
 - Identify Virulence Determinants (e.g., S hypervariable regions, IFN antagonists, Antibody Dependent Enhancement Mechanisms)
 - Test Candidate Vaccines
- Support Large and Small Animal Models of Coronavirus Pathogenesis (e.g., MHV and BCoV-R)
- Sample the Biodiversity of Coronaviruses
 - SARS Related Isolates (e.g., Civit Cat, Raccoon Dog)
 - Other Unrecognized Coronaviruses (e.g., consensus PCR, Array Screening, Serology) Sequence these isolates, develop a sequence database as a resource.

CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

- Develop Multiple High Throughput Candidate Vaccines
 - Live Attenuated (most success)
 - Recombinant Vected (fast)
 - Prime-Boost Approaches
 - Inactivated/subunit vaccines (?, less likely to succeed)
- Mucosal Immunity at Enteric and Respiratory Surfaces



CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

- Develop Multiple High Throughput Candidate Vaccines
 - Live Attenuated (most success)
 - Recombinant Vectored
 - Prime-Boost Approaches
 - Inactivated/Subunit vaccines (?, less likely to succeed)

```
graph LR; A[Live Attenuated] --- B[ ]; B --- C[ ]; C --- D[ ]; B --> E[Test in animal models];
```

Test in animal models
- Mucosal Immunity at Enteric and Respiratory Surfaces
- Target Multiple Immunogens
 - S glycoprotein, N protein, replicase proteins and other structural and nonstructural targets of humoral and cellular immunity
- Develop Genetic Approaches for Live Attenuated Virus Vaccine Development
 - SARS Reverse Genetics
 - SARS Targeted RNA Recombination

Vaccine Related Basic Research

(Potential for Antiviral/Vaccine Escape and Emergence)

- Model SARS/Coronavirus Evolution
 - Mutation and RNA Recombination Frequency
 - Plasticity of Structural Proteins (S glycoprotein hypervariable domain, function of group specific genes)
 - Mechanisms of Tissue Tropism Switching
 - Evolution of Immunodominant Epitopes
 - Phylogeny
- Define Coronavirus Persistence in vivo
 - Mechanisms of Coronavirus Persistence in vivo
 - Mechanisms of Coronavirus immune avoidance
- Elucidate the Cross Species Potential of Coronaviruses
- Basic Research on Model Coronaviruses